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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Third periodic reports submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant in accordance with the programme established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit reports on the measures they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized therein. All reports are to be submitted to the Secretary-General, who transmits copies to the Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant. The Secretary-General also transmits to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts thereof, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies, in so far as the reports relate to any matters falling within the competence of the agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.

2. Under article 17 of the Covenant, the States parties to the Covenant furnish their reports in accordance with a programme established by the Economic and Social Council. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the Covenant. Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by a State party to the Covenant, it is not necessary to reproduce that information; instead a precise reference to the information furnished may be given.

3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, is entrusted by the Council with the task of monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In accordance with the methods of work established in Council resolution 1979/43 and in subsequent decisions and resolutions, the Committee will consider the reports submitted by States parties in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. The Committee will submit to the Council an annual report on its activities, with shall contain, inter alia, the concluding observations of the Committee relating to each State party's report, and will make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of those reports and of the reports submitted by the specialized agencies, with a view to assisting the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant.

4. The representatives of reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee at which their reports are examined, to make statements on the reports submitted by those States and to answer questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

5. As provided for under article 17 of the Covenant, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988/4 of 24 May 1988, decided to revise its earlier programme of reporting by States parties established in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 2 May 1976, and endorsed the recommendation made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its second session (E/1988/14, para. 351) that States parties be requested to submit a single initial report within two years of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned, and thereafter periodic reports at five-year intervals.

6. In a note verbale dated 30 September 1988, the Secretary-General informed the States parties to the Covenant of this decision.

7. In accordance with the revised schedule for reporting approved by the Committee at its fourth session (see E/1990/23, annex VI) the third periodic reports on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant will be due, within the next five-year period (1994-1999), from 43 States parties on the following dates:

State party	Date due
Australia	30 June 1994
Bulgaria	30 June 1994
Belarus	30 June 1994
Chile	30 June 1994
Colombia	30 June 1994
Cyprus	30 June 1994
Denmark	30 June 1994
Finland	30 June 1994
Hungary	30 June 1994
Mongolia	30 June 1994
Norway	30 June 1994
Poland	30 June 1994
Romania	30 June 1994

State party	Date due
Spain	30 June 1994
Syrian Arab Republic	30 June 1994
Ukraine	30 June 1994
Russian Federation	30 June 1994
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 June 1994
Canada	30 June 1995
Germany	30 June 1995
Iraq	30 June 1995
Madagascar	30 June 1995
Rwanda	30 June 1995
Yugoslavia	30 June 1995
Barbados	30 June 1996
India	30 June 1996
Italy	30 June 1996
Jordan	30 June 1996
Portugal	30 June 1996
Venezuela	30 June 1996
Austria	30 June 1997
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	30 June 1997
Ecuador	30 June 1997
France	30 June 1997
Japan	30 June 1997
Mexico	30 June 1997
Netherlands	30 June 1997
Zaire	30 June 1997
Costa Rica	30 June 1998
Jamaica	30 June 1998
Luxembourg	30 June 1998
Trinidad and Tobago	30 June 1998
Yemen	30 June 1998
Dominican Republic	30 June 1999

8. As at 1 July 1994, a third periodic report on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988/4, was received from Sweden. The third periodic reports submitted by States parties listed in paragraph 7 above will be issued as addenda to the present document.